Institutions established, maintained or aided by the Central Government. A substantial increase in allocation has been made in the Eleventh Plan for the expansion of higher education, for setting up of institutions such as Central Universities in uncovered States, establishment of National Universities aiming at World Class, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management, Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Indian Institutes of Information Technology and Schools for Planning and Architecture.

Expansion of capacity of the existing institutions, incentivising State Governments for increasing State outlays on higher education, strengthening of science based research in Universities, frequent updating of curricula, introduction of semester system etc., Faculty Improvement Porgrammes and other reforms have been being taken up during the Eleventh Plan for improving the quality and relevance of higher education.

Five new Central Universities have been created during the last three years. While 8 new IITs have been proposed to set up in the Eleventh Plan, six of them have already started functioning from the academic year 2008-09 through temporary campuses/mentor IITs. Five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research have been established and they have already started functioning form temporary premises. Out of seven new IIMs proposed in the Eleventh Plan, one has already been established in Shillong which has commenced its first academic session in 2008-09. Two new Schools of Planning and Architecture have been set up. The National Institute of Technology Act, 2007 has been passed and enforced with effect from 15.8.2007. To meet the shortage of teachers in Centrally funded higher and technical education institutes under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource Development and to make teaching attractive the age of superannuation of teachers has been raised from 62 years to 65 years. National Translation Mission Programme has been launched for translation of existing knowledge books in English into various languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. To encourage research, the amount of Fellowships under Junior Research Fellowships has been enhanced by approximately 50%. The Government has also taken a decision to revise the pay scales of teachers in the universities and colleges in order to attract and retain talented youth in teaching profession.

Abortion of minor girls due to sex education

†2228. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the news item appearing in the media wherein girls less than twelve years of age were reported to have undergone abortion;

(b) whether Government is also aware of the fact that nearly 49 per cent girls in America give birth to children while they are still unmarried;

(c) whether due to sex education the same perversion is feared to set in Indian society; and

(d) if so, the proposed plan to counter it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) No, Sir.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) No, Sir. There are many studies which are carried out in different countries coming out with different data.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Human Resource Development in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organization (NACO), has launched Adolescence Education Programme (AEP) with the objective to empower the adolescent population to make informed choices and to develop life skills for addressing psychological, social and health concerns.

Zonal benches of Supreme Court

2229. SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to establish zonal benches of Supreme Court;

(b) if so, how many zonal benches are under consideration;

(c) what would be specific jurisdiction of those zonal benches;

(d) where those benches would be established; and

(e) how much is the budget for establishment of those zonal benches?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Bicameral Legislature in Nagaland

2230. SHRI KHEKIHO ZHIMOMI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nagaland Government has forwarded a resolution of the State Assembly proposing to make the State Legislature bicameral, by creating a Legislative Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action that has been taken by Government on the proposal of the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The requisite information from Ministry of Home Affairs is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Recall of elected representatives

2231. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Constitution, which does not provide for recall of any elected representative, allows States to enact laws relating to local body elections;

(b) whether it is a fact that it was for the first time in the country that voters recalled their elected municipal chiefs of Gunderdehi, Nawagarh and Rajpur in Chhattisgarh for not delivering, as provided in the Chhattisgarh Municipality Act; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider similar rights for voters in India, both at State level and National level, so as to recall their elected representatives, after consulting the Election Commission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) The Constitution does not provide for provisions to recall elected representatives. However, Part-IXA of the Constitution contain enabling provisions whereunder Legislature of a State may make laws to provide for municipalities, and other related matters.